Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States (TMNE) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM), aim at increasing the production and productivity of horticultural crops including potato, onion and tomato. Under these schemes assistance is provided to the farmers for quality planting material of elite cultivars, adoption of new technologies, integrated pest management, integrated nutrient management and farm mechanization. Besides, National Horticulture Board is also implementing schemes which provide assistance for production of vegetables such as tomato, capsicum, etc. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Micro-irrigation provides assistance to farmers for efficient use of water. These measures are expected to enhance the productivity of horticultural crops including potato, onion and tomato, reduce their cost of production and increase the supply to meet round the year demand of these food items.

Trips agreement for protection of undisclosed test

*134. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in February, 2004, Government had set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, to consider the steps to be taken in the context of the provision of Article 39.3 of the TRIPS Agreement for protection of undisclosed test and other data submitted to the Regulator for seeking market approval of agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals; and

(b) if so, whether the Committee has recommended a number of measures in its report on May 31st, 2007 including amendments to the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to give effect its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes , Sir, The Government had set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee (later on modified to Consultative Group) on 19th February, 2004 to assist the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to make appropriate recommendations on the the measures to be taken regarding Article 39.3 of TRIPS. The following specific issues were for consideration:—

(i) Steps to be taken in the context of Article 39.3 of TRIPS Agreement;

(ii) Whether data protection can be offered under the existing legal provisions or an appropriate new dispensation is required.

(b) Yes, Sir, The Report has since been submitted to the Department of Commerce on 31.5.2007 and the complete report along with the recommendations is also available on the Website of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals *www. chemicals.gov.in.* The Committee has recommended that based on its recommendations Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare may carry out suitable amendments in the Insecticides Act, 1968 and Relevant Rules and Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 respectively.